

SENATOR SCHMIT: I oppose the motion to bracket, and I believe that if you go back in the history of the Legislature, I can agree with Senator Conway that there ought to have been some study, but time after time, after time, when any one of us on this floor tried to secure funds to develop a water plan for Nebraska, to do any of those proposals that we're talking about today, those funds were never forthcoming. I do not need to check with my seatmate today to find out if those funds are going to be in the budget for the next year, or the year, or the year after that. We know they will not be. This Legislature never reacts to long-range needs. We only react to crisis. We react on a day by day, hour by hour basis. Week by week is long-range planning for this Legislature. There is no way we're going to ever do the kind of thing that needs to be done which Congressman Barrett and Congresswoman Smith rightfully said should be done, that there should be studies done, but we're not going to do it. It has not happened yet and it's not going to happen because we will not put the funds nor the direction behind it. We have attempted to work with the commission. We had a Water Management Board for a number of years that were hopefully created to provide some of the advice and counsel if these situations arose. They never did have anything upon which to act and we're not going to do it now. The kind of study which you need, the kind of development process for the State of Nebraska needs to take in surface waters, underground waters, potential development for agriculture, industry and domestic use. That's an expensive process. I would suggest it ought to be done. It's not going to be done. And so when Senator Conway says that we ought to study, if you really mean that, Senator Conway, then we ought to amend this bill and provide the funds so that you can do the type of work which you and I know would be helpful but which we also know is not going to be forthcoming. I oppose the bracket motion.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think if you're thinking about this thoughtfully, that the bracket motion is exactly what should be done. And I think we need to have a little truth telling here and I think my perception of it, at least, is that what we're doing here is trying to have some effect on the federal legislation with regard to the Niobrara and that's probably why we don't want the bracketing motion because it relates to that. But being equally